

APPROVED- 10/27/11

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, October 13, 2011 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Jeff Mutter, Lisa Beaulieu, Linda Teel, John Gibbons, Erika Sanzi, Earl Wood. Daniel Pedro was absent.

Administration Present: Dr. Philip Thornton, Superintendent, Joseph Rotella, Director of Administration.

Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting

Chairman Mutter convened the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 5-0. Mrs. Teel was not in the room when this vote was taken.

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

Because Mrs. Teel was not in the room when this agenda item came up, the committee went on to agenda items 5 and 6 – after agenda

item 6 (Mrs. Teel had come in to the meeting during agenda item 5) Mrs. Sanzi made a motion to approve regular meeting minutes of 9/22/11 and executive session minutes of 9/22/11, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 5-0. Mr. Gibbons abstained from this vote.

Agenda Item #5: Presentation on the RIAEA Art Reach Grant – McCourt Middle School – Carolyn Dooley, Art Teacher at MMS, gave the presentation on this grant. She was one of the persons that submitted this grant last year and they were very pleased when they found out that they were going to receive \$1,000 from this grant. She showed several slides of various segments of the making of the Lion King. The children learned so much from this production/grant. She said it really changed some children from being very shy and quiet, to becoming narrators and very vocal children – not afraid to get up in front of an audience any longer. Carolyn also mentioned that they received additional grant money from the Rhode Island Foundation.

Agenda Item #6: Presentation of AIMSWEB and “Reading Street” Reading Data – Dr. Thornton introduced Lisa DiGiovanni, she gave the presentation and showed us various slides with data results – before “Reading Street” and now one year after the program started. Some of the testing data results were from screening tests that are given to the children in grades 2-5 three times a year – there were various measurements and the results showed a great amount of improvement from last year to this year – 91% of the students tested are reading on or above grade level. In fact the results are better than

what the district was actually told they could expect. Principals, coaches, special educators, administration, and teachers – everyone has had a part in this wonderful progress – dedicated teachers helped with their expertise, it takes the teachers to work with the materials given to know what works well with their children.

Grades 3-5 baseline scores are increasing – positive all over the board. With these types of tests and results teachers can focus on the students that are excelling, the students that are struggling and the students in between – teachers are using the results of these tests to change their instruction.

Some tests can be given on line, they give immediate results to the teachers and the children – however, there is a little shortage on computers but they are trying to work this out. Some teachers reported that at the beginning of this year they had lots of students on target and excelling and they feel that this will continue.

Mrs. Maloney said that one big change is that the students are reading with their classroom teachers, they are no longer being switched between classes. All students in town will be learning the same, the same vocabulary, same books, etc., so if a student moves between schools in town, they are all learning the same – they will not be missing anything – they will be right on target. The use of the technology provided is also being enjoyed by the students-they have fun with the programs while learning. Some of Mrs. Maloney's students asked that the SC come to their school to visit them and see them at work in the afternoon. Mrs. Maloney asked the SC to please call her so that arrangements could be made to make this happen –

the students would be very happy!

Lisa went on to say that they would continue to refine the data with this program. They do want to become more sophisticated with teachers reading the reports – they want to dig into the NECAP relationship with their data, they will be also starting focus groups for teachers and they will be giving more support for the use of the technology.

Dr. Thornton thanked the group for their presentation – he would like to see similar programs for Math and Science – these sorts of programs do make a difference.

Agenda Item #7: Chairperson's Report

Mr. Mutter asked Dr. Thornton to give everyone an update regarding an issue at Community School. Dr. Thornton said they are working on the drop off/pick up issue at Community School. They may have a remedy very soon. They will reposition where people park – the problem is the students are walking very near to the vehicles. Dr. Thornton mentioned that another paved exit is a possibility; other scenarios are being reviewed and will be brought to the SC for final review before moving forward. The important thing is to keep the students away from the moving vehicles.

Agenda Item #8: Superintendent's Report

Dr. Thornton said that he has ordered a book for the SC to read – “Results Now – How We Can Achieve Unprecedented Improvements in Teaching and Learning”, but it did not arrive in time for tonight's

meeting, however he will have it for the next meeting!

Agenda Item #9: Comments from the Public

No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #10: Reports of Standing Committees

A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Wood said that the Fiscal Management Committee met earlier in the evening and so he made a motion to the full committee for payment of invoices totaling \$1,242,796.58, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 6-0.

B. Discussion and/or Vote on FY 12 Budget – Mr. Wood reported no action taken at this time.

Mrs. Beaulieu mentioned that the Achievement and Communication Committee met on October 6, 2011 and talked about the NECAP scores – she would like these types of meetings to continue quarterly so they can talk about what is working and what is not working in core areas. Science was discussed at this meeting – they addressed some concerns and hope to have additional in depth meetings – the next meeting will focus on Math.

Mrs. Teel mentioned that the Policy Committee met earlier and they voted (3-0) to approve as amended, the Anti-Bullying Policy. Dr. Thornton said that the policy would be formally approved at another meeting.

Agenda Item #11: New Business

A. Home School Instruction Requests 2011-2012 School Year – Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to accept the requests as presented, 2nd

Mrs. Sanzi, approved 6-0.

B. Presentation on the District's New Website – Mike Chandler gave a presentation on the new website that he has upgraded. He said so far parents like it very much – the traffic on the site just during one month has already exceeded the traffic for six months on the old site. Mike said the new website can grow with the district – all green technology. In the future every school will be able to update their own information – hopefully each school will have a dedicated individual to enter this information. He said that navigating the site is a lot easier than previously, the search engine makes for an easy find.

C. Presentation on RIDE Teacher Course Student Data Reporting Requirements – Dr. Thornton and Mike Chandler provided information about the mandate for reporting on class rosters that RIDE is talking about – they want to fine tune it and they are still laying out what they are looking for. Mike said that the district has been working with Aspen to track grade's 3-7 - that seems to be where RIDE wants to go – basically it is to track how much time a teacher is spending with each student – they are trying to make a better overview of students' whereabouts.

D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-R-2011-14: Salary Compensation 2011-12 – Mr. Wood made a motion to approve resolution SC-R-2011-14 – a resolution authorizing and empowering the SC to compensate various positions and job duties in fiscal 2011-2012, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.

E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-PR-10-2011-16: Lighting Replacements at Ashton and Garvin Schools – Mr. Wood

made a motion to approve SC-PR-10-2011-016, a resolution authorizing and empowering the Cumberland SC to execute a contract with RISE Engineering of Cranston, Rhode Island, for lighting replacement at Ashton and Garvin Schools in an amount not to exceed \$35,949.21, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0. Mr. Wood wanted to thank Mayor McKee and the town council because the money for this resolution is coming out of the energy grant provided to us by the town.

F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Middle School Before School Music Program – Dr. Drolet and Dr. Anderson explained that the two music teachers are willing to teach before school twice during the week – they are both flexible – this would be for the 7th and 8th grades. Sixth grade band will be during the day. They would like to start on October 31st – it would be from 7:00 am to 7:45 am at both middle schools. Chorus would be after school for about 45 minutes. Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve the middle school before school music program, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi, approved 6-0.

G. Discussion of Legal Services – the SC will request quotes from various law firms-they will request the rates so that they will know what to expect if they require outside help in the future.

H. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve 2nd Reading of New Policy:
1)DA-DAA Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 54 – Mr. Wood made a motion to wave the 2nd reading of the policy, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve the DA-DAA Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 54 Policy, 2nd Mr. Wood and

Mrs. Teel, approved 6-0.

I. Pursuant to the RIGL 42-46-5 – Exception (9) Grievance:

1) Vote on CTA Grievance: #10-11-10 – (A.K.A. 11-12-05), Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to deny the grievance, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, Mrs. Sanzi, approved 6-0.

2) Vote on CTA Grievance: #10-11-14 – Mr. Wood made a motion to deny the grievance, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 6-0.

3) Vote on CTA Grievance: #11-12-01 – Mr. Gibbons made a motion to deny the grievance, but then withdrew his motion. Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to table the grievance, 2nd Mr. Wood, approved 6-0.

4) Vote on CTA Grievance: #11-12-02 – Mr. Wood made a motion to deny the grievance, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi and Mrs. Teel, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #12: Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Rotella had the following personnel recommendations:

Resignations

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of

Denis Belleville, Payroll Clerk, at Cumberland Public Schools, effective 10/11/2011. Mr. Wood made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of

Mikaela Shorey, World Language-Spanish Teacher, at Cumberland High School, effective 10/5/2011. Mr. Wood made a motion to

approve, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.

Appointment

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of

Saul Disla, World Language-Spanish Teacher at Cumberland High School, effective 10/17/2011. (FTE: 1; Step 5; Lane: Masters; Co-pay: 16%; Budgeted)

Mr. Wood made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 6-0.

Leave of Absence

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA Medical Leave

for Eva Levasseur, Teacher Assistant, at B. F. Norton School, effective 9/6/2011 with a return date of 12/13/2011. (Budgeted) Mr. Rotella recommended that this request for leave of absence be denied. Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to deny this request for leave of absence, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi and Mr. Gibbons, approved 6-0.

ADDENDUM #1

Resignation

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of

Marguerite Savickas, Confidential Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent, for Cumberland Public Schools, effective 10/14/2011.

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 6-0.

Appointment

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of

Laurie Jencks, Confidential Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent,

for Cumberland Public Schools, effective 10/14/2011. Mr. Wood made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #13: Comments from the Public

No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #14: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)

Mrs. Beaulieu asked for additional ideas and different prize ideas for the “Clipper Cash” program that is a PBIS initiative being used at the high school.

Agenda Item #15: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in RIGL 42-46-5:

A. Personnel Matters – Exception (1) 1)CTA/ICSE

B. Negotiations/Litigation – Exception (2) 1)CTA/ICSE, 2)Potential Litigation, 3)Contract Negotiations

C. Reconvene into Open Session

D. Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session

Mr. Mutter stated that there would be no executive session tonight.

Agenda Item #16: Adjournment

Mrs. Sanzi and Mr. Wood made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved

6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony